

## **“Why Some Christians Remain Carnal,” Part 3 - 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 – January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

- Today's teaching will be part three of a series titled, “Why Some Christians Remain Carnal.”
- With it, we bring both the chapter and the series to an end but not before Paul once again puts his finger on why it is that they're still carnal.
- Up to this point, we've seen three such reasons as to why it is that some Christians just keep living carnally, and never mature spiritually.

### **1. They're not rejected culturally (Verse 13)**

- Paul quotes another of their sayings, “food for the stomach and the stomach for food.” Paul then says; “God will destroy both of them.”
- They were saying this in order to connect the body's appetite for food with the appetite for sex saying that God has given us both drives.
- The thought was if God gave us an appetite for food that can be satisfied when hungry, so too can the appetite for sex be satisfied as well.

### **2. They're not focused eternally (Verse 14)**

- v14 Paul sort of reminds them that one day, God, by His power, is going to raise us from the dead, just as He raised Jesus from the dead.
- What Paul is saying is that one day; my body with all of its appetites will die, and or be resurrected, and as such, I should not focus on it.
- The point being is that my focus should not be on satisfying the appetites of this body in the temporal, but on that which is yet in the eternal.

### **3. They're not discerning spiritually (Verses 15-17)**

- v15 Paul asks the fourth of six “don't you know” questions, this time asking, “Do you not know your bodies are members of Christ Himself.”
- He then takes it further asking, shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? He then answers saying, never!
- v16-17 is the fifth don't you know such that, he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body, as the two will become one flesh.

### **4. They're not willing to flee physically (Verse 18-20)**

- v18 Paul says to flee from sexual immorality, as all other sins are committed outside the body, but sexual sin is committed against our body.
- v19 Paul asks the last do you not know question about our bodies as temples of the indwelling Holy Spirit and as such we are not our own.
- v20 He then explains the reason we're not our own is because we are bought with a price, which is why we're to honor God with our bodies.

- In order to better understand what Paul, by the Holy Spirit, is saying, we first need to consider how we treat what belongs to another, better.
- In other words when I have something that belongs to someone else I tend to take better care of it than I would if it belonged to me instead.
- This because, I know the time will come when I'll return it to its rightful owner, and when I do, it needs to be in as good, or better condition.

- Now that I have this understanding concerning my body belonging to God as the rightful owner, it will be the game changer in how I treat it.
- More specifically, as it relates to the context of what Paul is writing, the potential to damage, or even worse yet, destroy the body physically.
- Sadly, it's not just the body physically, it's the mind psychologically, and more importantly, it's the soul and along with it the spirit, spiritually.

Proverbs 6:32 (NKJV) - Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul.

- Here's where I'm going with this, either we will honor God with our bodies, or we will dishonor God with our bodies, in that it can't be both.
- The reason being is my body, as the temple of the Holy Spirit will either be used, as a vessel for honor or it'll be abused bringing dishonor.
- Perhaps better said, I'll either satisfy the body's lusts of the flesh as I did before I came to Christ, or I'll flee the lusts of the flesh for Christ.

Charles Spurgeon, as only he could said it ever so eloquently this way, “Your body was a willing horse when it was in the service of the devil, let it not be a sluggish hack now that it draws the chariot of Christ.”

- This begs the question of how it is that we as Christians can have victory in the arena of sexual sin. The answer is found in verse eighteen.
- In a word, “flee.” Simply put, we have no hope of ever tasting from the sweet cup of victory, absent the fleeing the temptation of sexual sin.
- The best example of this is Joseph fleeing from Potiphar's wife who we're told had daily seduced him to commit sexual immorality with her.

Genesis 39:7-15 And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, “Lie with me.” 8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, “Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. 9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” 10 So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her. 11 But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, 12 that she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. 13 And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside, 14 that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, “See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. 15 And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside.”

### **How was Joseph able to flee?**

1. **He professed his faith.** (How else would Potiphar have known and seen that God was with him.)
2. **He stayed busy.** (An old Turkish proverb says, “Men are usually tempted by the devil, but an idle man positively tempts the devil.”)
3. **He stays away from her.** (It's interesting to note that it wasn't until he was alone with her that the temptation came.)
4. **He said; “no!”** (He refuses to sin by saying no to the sin. We can actually say no and refuse because God has empowered us to.)
5. **He called sin; “sin.”** (He tells her that should he lie with her, it would be a great wickedness and sin against God.)
6. **He knew it would hurt others.** (He was keenly aware of the impact this would have on his master who entrusted him with so much.)
7. **He knew it would be against God.** (He understood how this would affect God and the call God had on his life.)

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.